



# NEWS RELEASE

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## PRESS ADVISORY

Candidates for the General Assembly have raised \$14.6 million and spent \$10.2 million, according to 11-day pre-election reports filed with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission for the 2009 General Election.

“These figures represent an even more dramatic decrease in financial activity from four years ago than was reported at the 29-day reporting period,” said Jeff Brindle, Executive Director of the Commission.

In 2005, the last time there were contests for Governor and Assembly, Assembly candidates had raised \$19.4 million and spent \$14.9 million by this time.

“The 25 percent reduction in receipts and the 32 percent decrease in spending are truly remarkable,” added Brindle. “The economy and the Governor’s race are certainly having an impact, but more significantly Pay-to-Play laws are depressing financial activity.”

“While current economic conditions are worse than recent downturns, nevertheless, in periods of economic slowdown over the last 20 years, campaign spending continued to rise, often significantly,” said Brindle.

“What we have witnessed since Pay-to-Play laws were enacted and executive orders issued is a slowdown in campaign financial activity, culminating in the dramatic decrease at all levels this year,” said Brindle.

“Potential donors are hesitant to give, fearing being in violation of the law, forfeiting a public contract, or being prohibited from negotiating and bidding on a contract.”

“It is safe to say that Pay-to-Play laws are working with regard to reducing the amount in contributions going directly to candidates,” he said.

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According to the reports, Democratic Assembly candidates have raised and spent more money than Republican candidates.

Democratic candidates raised \$10 million, spent \$7.2 million and have \$2.8 million cash-on-hand. Republican candidates have raised \$4.5 million, spent \$2.9 million and have cash-on-hand totaling \$1.5 million. Independents have reported \$118,081 raised and \$60,971 in expenditures. Cash-on-hand for Independents amounts to \$56,929.

The Assembly reports are available on-line today at 10:00 a.m. on ELEC's website at [www.elec.state.nj.us](http://www.elec.state.nj.us).

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